



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk
k

Meeting Minutes Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Thursday, July 13, 2023

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Chair

The Honorable Andreas Addison – Member (early departure)

Absent

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Vice Chair

Staff and Others in Attendance

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst

Nahdiyah Muhammad, Assistant City Clerk

Janet Palmer, Deputy City Attorney

Candice Reid, City Clerk

RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Nahdiyah Muhammad provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

Kimberly Dale spoke regarding her current experiences as a homeless individual with health needs. Ms. Dale requested more access to public restrooms and stated it was a public health issue.

Savanday Brown spoke regarding her previous comments provided to the committee regarding the city providing a building to use as a shelter space, instead of allocating funding to different organizations.

Bridgette Whitaker spoke regarding the need for a centralized database to track clients and organizations that are receiving federal and state funding to provide shelter.

Nancy Williams stated her appreciation for shelters in the city and the staff that run the facilities. Ms. Williams also stated that more police were needed at the shelters located along the Midlothian corridor due to high drug activity. Ms. Williams further stated that she would like assistance from the city to make Tabernacle of Praise Ministries a water and cooling station.

Rhonda Sneed, Blessing Warriors Executive Director, addressed overdoses that are occurring at temporary shelters. Ms. Sneed stated that the resources to feed, clothe and provide programs for the homeless population in the city are not enough.

Chair Stephanie Lynch gave appreciation to individuals that provided comment to the committee. Chair Lynch stated the next report that will provide an update on inclement weather shelters will be September 14, 2023.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2023-195](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a My Life Coach Academy Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and Rings vs. Rent Scholarship Foundation for the purpose of funding the implementation of a summer youth leadership development program for Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School students.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-195](#)

Eva Colen, Manager of the Office of Children and Families, provided the committee with an introduction regarding ORD. 2023-195.

Public Hearing

Inett Dabney, Principal of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School (MLK), spoke in support of ORD. 2023-195. Ms. Dabney stated that the impact Life Coach Academy has had on MLK students was impressive.

Michael Bailey, Chief Executive Officer of Life Coach Academy and Rings vs. Rings Scholarship Foundation, spoke in support of ORD. 2023-195. Mr. Bailey stated Life Coach Academy wants to continue to engage with the city's youth.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Andreas Addison moved to forward ORD. 2023-195 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Addison, Lynch. Noes 0.

The following resolution was considered:

2. [RES. 2023-R031](#) To approve the City of Richmond Plan of Services under the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Res. No. 2023-R031](#)

Dawn Barber, Director of Justice Services, provided the committee with an introduction regarding RES. 2023-R031.

Public Hearing

Bridgette Whitaker inquired about the funding allocation listed in RES. 2023-R031.

Dawn Barber, Director of Justice Services, stated that the grant will fund full time employees to run the referenced program.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Andreas Addison moved to forward RES. 2023-R031 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Addison, Lynch. Noes 0.

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

[CD.2023.243](#) July 13, 2023 - Education & Human Services Board Vacancy Report

Attachments: [20230713 EHS Board Vacancy Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Chair Stephanie Lynch moved to forward the following applications for appointment and reappointment to Council with a recommendation to approve:

Social Services Advisory Board:
Jameson Babb (reappointment)
Timika Cousins

Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks:
Badia Hiwott

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Addison, Lynch. Noes None

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Thursday, June 8, 2023, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.238](#) June 8, 2023 - Education and Human Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20230608- EHS Minutes- DRAFT](#)

Discussion Item(s)

Violence Reduction & Out of School Update

Jason Kamras, Richmond Public Schools Superintendent, provided the committee with an update regarding the development of a 15-point plan to address violence and absenteeism.

Chair Stephanie Lynch inquired about the recommendations to come forward regarding the 15-point plan.

Superintendent Kamras stated that the Richmond School Board is attempting to fund as much as possible with the available grants. Mr. Kamras also stated that the most recent report from the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC) states that Virginia significantly under funded K-12 schools.

Chair Lynch inquired about additional staff positions that will need funding.

Superintendent Kamras stated that between 30-40 positions will need funding, which can be funded by grants next year. Mr. Kamras also stated that the grants will expire and reoccurring funding will be needed in the future to maintain the positions.

Member Andreas Addison stated Richmond Public Schools budget has increased by \$62 million since 2017. Member Addison also stated that the increase is to help maintain and keep up with the needs of Richmond Public Schools. Member Addison further stated it may seem like a large increase but the increase in funding for Richmond Public Schools was long overdue.

Nicole Jones, Richmond School Board Member, stated that the 200 school day pilot will begin July 24th for Cardinal Elementary and Fairfield Court Elementary Schools.

Superintendent Kamras had continued discussion with committee members regarding Richmond Public Schools.

Children's Budget Update

Eva Colen, Manager of the Office of Children and Families, and Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with an update regarding the Children's Budget. Ms. Colen stated that the work resulting from the Fiscal Mapping project will help create a Children's Budget. Ms. Colen also stated that the project will track how local funding flows to various services for school aged children, beginning in early childhood to grade 12.

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, stated that the data collection aspect of funding will be provided after more has been collected and processed.

Presentation(s)

Universal Pre-School and Childcare Update

[CD.2023.246](#) Universal Pre-School & Childcare Update

Attachments: [Universal Pre-School & Childcare Update](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Eva Colen, Manager of the Office of Children and Families, provided the committee with a presentation regarding updates on Universal Pre-School and Childcare.

Member Andreas Addison asked about future savings that may be a result of children receiving Pre-K.

Member Andreas Addison departed the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Ms. Colen stated that city administration is working with outside consultants to model the cost savings for additional reading specialists, school counselors, and other in school social workers for children who have benefited from the supports that quality early childcare and education provide.

Chair Stephanie Lynch inquired about the annual voucher value for childcare subsidies.

Ms. Colen stated that the consultant city administration is working with, also worked with the state on a cost model for childcare subsidiary and can provide the committee with that data at a later time.

Ms. Colen had continued discussion with the committee regarding Universal Pre-School and Childcare.

Staff Report

Council Policy Analyst Joyce Davis provided the committee with the meeting staff report.

[CD.2023.251](#) 20230713 EHS Staff Report

Attachments: [20230713 EHS Staff Report \(Original\)](#)

[20230713 EHS Staff Report \(Corrected\)](#)

A copy of the staff report has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.